



Lt. Col. William Pogue

Space Dream of Okemah

STILLWATER — Skylab astronaut Bill Pogue of Okemah once told a favorite professor at Oklahoma State University that he wanted to be the first man on the moon.

"Bill Pogue had such a sense of direction and purpose," recalls Dr. Jeanne Agnew, who served as his major adviser when Pogue was pursuing a master's in mathematics at OSU in 1960.

"Besides that," she says,

"he was persistent, but not without showing consideration for others. For instance, his work was extremely neat and legible. What a joy it was to grade his papers."

Takes Off Nov. 15

Through the Oklahoman's "first on the moon" dream was pre-empted by Neil Armstrong, Pogue's chance to work in space is at hand. He and fellow rookie astronauts Gerald Carr and Ed Gibson will be on

the next Skylab mission. Lift-off — originally set for Nov. 10 — is presently scheduled for Nov. 15, following the repair of a booster rocket's fins.

Scheduled to last 56 days, the mission could run as long as 90 days, which would erase the man-in-space record of 56½ days, according to OSU's Dr. Ken Wiggins, national director of the OSU-NASA Space Science Education Project.

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Okemah Astronaut Is Detoured

xt Skylab mission. — originally set for 1974 — is presently delayed for Nov. 15, following the repair of a rocket's fins. Scheduled to last 56 days, the mission could last as long as 90 days, which would erase the space record of 43 days, according to Dr. Ken Wiggins, chief director of the NASA Space Science Experiment Project.

Meanwhile, Mrs. Agnew says Pogue's kindness may be exemplified by a letter he wrote to her some time ago. It accompanied a gift of Beta cloth, the fire-proofing that covers space suits.

"A small token of appreciation for the training received in your excellent classes," Pogue's letter said. "It was pretty hard for a beat-up fighter pilot to learn. I have always been grateful for the toler-

ance and patience of the people at OSU for giving me the opportunity to work on my master's degree."

Logged 4,600 Hours

Following his graduation from OSU, Pogue taught mathematics at the Air Force Academy, learned the test pilot trade in England and served as an instructor at the Air Force's Aerospace Research Pilot School in California.

He was assigned to the space program in Houston in 1966 and has since been a member of the Apollo 7, 11 and 14 astronaut support crews.

Lt. Col. Pogue is a native of Okemah and a 1951 alumnus of Oklahoma Baptist University. He is married to the former Helen Dittmar of Shawnee. They have three children.

The 42-year-old flier is proficient in some 50 types

of British and American aircraft. He is a qualified civilian flight instructor and has logged more than 4,600 hours of flight time, most of it in jet aircraft.

Convention Slated

McALESTER — Accredited Music Teachers of McAlester will host this year's Southeast district convention Nov. 17 at the Holiday Inn and at First Presbyterian Church.

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